(e) if so, the details of incentives given to State Governments to hold such State-level Youth Festivals?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Every year National Youth Festival is organized from 12-16 January to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda in collaboration with one of the States willing to host such festival. The Central Government and host State Government share the expenditure in the ratio 50:50 subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.00 crore in so far as the Central Government's assistance is concerned. The youth from all over the country take part in the festival. National Youth Festival is organized to propagate the concept of national integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage & adventure. Competitive and non-competitive events as well as cultural programmes are also organized to enable youth to display their talent.

(c) All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are expected to send contingents of 75 young persons in the age group of 13-35 years in the National Youth Festival.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for holding State-level Youth Festivals. Last year funds were released to following State Governments for organizing State-level Youth Festival.

Sl. No	State	Amount released (Rs.)
1	Tripura	1,12,500.00
2.	Bihar	1,50,000.00
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	75,000.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	1,50,000.00
5.	Uttraanchal	1,50,000.00
6.	Haryana	1,50,000.00
7.	Andhra Pradesh	1,50,000.00
8.	Nagaland	1,12,500.00
9.	Assam	1,12,500.00
10.	UT of Daman & Diu	75,000.00
11.	Manipur	1,12,500.00
12	Uttar Pradesh	2,25,000.00
	TOTAL	15,75,000.00

Special reward to the winning Indian Cricket Team

396 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give special reward to the Indian Cricket team on their grant feat of winning trophies in one day and test matches series in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether similar rewards will be given for other games such as hockey, football, tennis, table tennis, volley ball etc ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Under the 'Scheme, relating to Awards', winners of medals in international sports events and their coaches are given special cash awards in the disciplines included in the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, besides that of chess. Games like hockey, football, tennis and volleyball are among the eligible disciplines.

Pension scheme for asian Games athletes

397 SHRI S M LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any pension scheme for athletes who have participated in Asian Games over the years,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the criteria fixed for such athletes to qualify for the pension, and

(d) the details of such pension and benefits presently in operation for athletes who had won medals at diverse Asian Games for the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (d) Under the scheme of 'Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons', winners of Asian Games are entitled to life pension from the age of 30 years @ Rs. 350/-p.m. to gold medalists and @ Rs. 3000/- for silver and bronze medalists However, mere participation in Asian Games does not qualify a sportsperson for pension under the scheme